



Hauser Hall 200
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
TEL: 617-495-3101
FAX: 617-496-6118
ewarren@law.harvard.edu

ELIZABETH WARREN
Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law

November 22, 2006

The Honorable Colleen A. Brown
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
District of Vermont
PO Box 6648
Rutland, VT 05702-6648

GRANT

Dear Chief Judge Brown:

I am writing to request an order exemption for the Bankruptcy Project from PACER fees in the District of Vermont. I am a professor who works with several other professors, including Drs. David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler of the Harvard Medical School, Professor Melissa Jacoby of the University of North Carolina, Professor Robert Lawless of the University of Illinois, Professor Katherine Porter of the University of Iowa, Professor John Pottow and Provost Teresa Sullivan of the University of Michigan, Dr. Deborah Thorne of Ohio University, and Professor Jay Westbrook of the University of Texas in collecting data and writing about the businesses and individuals who file for bankruptcy. We have incurred PACER charges in order to advance our academic research about the bankruptcy system.

Our most immediate project involves a study of mortgage claims and homeownership in Chapter 13 bankruptcy cases. This study is directed by Professor Katherine Porter and is funded by a grant from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Endowment for Education. We are also planning to go into the field beginning in January 2007 to collect new data for the Consumer Bankruptcy Project.

All of our research is made public and is shared with the courts, the Office of the United States Trustee and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. We do not use PACER for any purpose other than academic research. We do not use PACER for the practice of law for clients or use PACER for any other fee-generating purposes.

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Our collective and individual research has been published in several law review articles, including the Cornell Law Review, California (Berkeley) Law Review, Harvard Law Review, Northwestern Law Review, and Stanford Law Review, as well as professional journals in medicine and sociology. We have also integrated the research into several books. Without access to these data, this work might never have been completed. Everyone associated with the project is very grateful to the judges who have made it possible.

Several other courts have made fee waivers available to us. I am including here for your information a list of the districts in which we currently have waivers. Some courts have given us permanent waivers, applicable so long as we are doing academic research under the same terms; others have given us year-to-year or two-year exemptions, which they have subsequently renewed.

I would like to request a waiver, on precisely the same terms as that granted in other courts. PACER access will be used only for academic research; it will not be used in connection with the representation of clients or for other fee-generating purposes. I would also like to request that the fee waiver be applicable for all data collection through 2007 and, if possible, beyond.

If I can answer any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Warren
Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law

Enclosure

Current PACER Exemption Districts

Professor Elizabeth Warren

Harvard Law School

As Of November 22, 2006

Alabama Middle	Virginia Eastern
Alabama Southern	Virginia Western Bankruptcy Court
Arkansas Eastern and Western	Washington Western
California Central	West Virginia Southern
California Eastern	Wyoming Bankruptcy Court
California Northern	
California Southern	
Colorado	
Delaware	
Georgia Middle Bankruptcy Court	
Georgia Northern	
Georgia Southern	
Idaho	
Illinois Central	
Illinois Northern	
Iowa Southern	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan Western	
Minnesota	
Mississippi Northern	
Mississippi Southern	
Missouri Eastern	
Missouri Western	
Montana	
Nebraska	
New Hampshire	
New York Southern District	
North Carolina Eastern	
North Carolina Middle	
North Carolina Western	
Ohio Southern	
Pennsylvania Eastern	
Pennsylvania Western	
Rhode Island	
South Dakota Northern	
Tennessee Eastern	
Tennessee Middle	
Tennessee Western Bankruptcy Court	
Texas Eastern	
Texas Northern	
Texas Western	
Utah	